

Robert Jones

1).

**Office of the Mayor Appointing of Positions**

The office of the Mayor should be limited in appointing positions in the City-the City Council should have the final approving authority from a three person list submitted by the mayor for each position designated. The office of the mayor should appoint his direct reporting staff only, i.e. secretary, reception, and PAO-communication officer.

Reason: This will curtail some ethics violations and dependency towards the person (mayor) hiring individuals for the position. We have enough issues currently with the current hiring practice.

2).

**Under Sec. 6.-Qualifications of voters-suggested changes are in red**

In all municipal elections hereafter to be held in said city, the voters thereat must have all the qualifications necessary to entitle them respectively to vote for members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, and, in addition thereto, must have resided for six (6) months next preceding the date of such election in said city and respective county. (Acts 1897, ch. 195, § 1)

Reason: All citizens within the city and Shelby County are impacted by the decisions of the city mayor and the Commissioners-the tax assessor, the judge of the juvenile court and the judges of the city court of the City of Memphis and other elected officials. Therefore, each citizen within those boundaries should have the right to voice their opinions on individuals running for the particular office by casting votes of their choice.

3).

A term limit should be imposed on the office of the Mayor and the City Commissioners of not more than two terms in succession.

4).

**Add another section under Chapter 2-2 City Council to read**

Sec. 2-2-3-Issues impacting the city ordinances, annexation and other policies/procedures/regulations that require a public meeting to be conducted by the City Council must be held within the city at a minimum of 4 designated/impacted locations to ensure public input. Dates and times for the meeting will be printed in the Commercial Appeal and broadcast on local news channels; suggested meeting times are from 6 to 8 p.m.

5).

**Suggest modification to this Sec. 15-12-4 Preliminary plan review. And, specifically the language below which is in red**

D. Notification to Property Owners. O.P.D. shall give written notification to all adjacent and property owners of record for subdivisions and within one hundred (1500) feet for resubdivisions. Notification shall be mailed not less than fourteen (21) days or more than thirty-five (35) days prior to the L.U.C.B. meeting at which the application is scheduled for consideration.

Reason: OPD current notices does not provide ample time or notifications to respected owners to address issues impacting their properties and review standing regulations governing these changes.

6).

### **Ethics**

A revised set of policy standards or one should quantify current city ethics policy standards for elected officials and individuals working for the City.

And any individuals under investigation by the law enforcement authorities should be placed on administrative leave with pay or relieved of duties with pay pending the outcome of the investigation.

7).

### **Retiree from the City Government and Pensions**

Individuals retiring from a position within the city should not be allowed to be placed in another position or be a contractor within the City or County government for two years upon their retirement.

The receiving of pensions from city government and the ability to obtain a position while receiving such pensions and working for the city government or entity there of, should not be permitted and the current policy need to be revised with concise language to address this action.

8).

### **Hiring of Positions for City Government**

All city government positions should be posted for not less than 15 days to allow qualified candidates to apply for such positions. The Mayor or any other city official should not be allowed to appoint individuals to key positions within government without approval by the governing legislative body or the people.

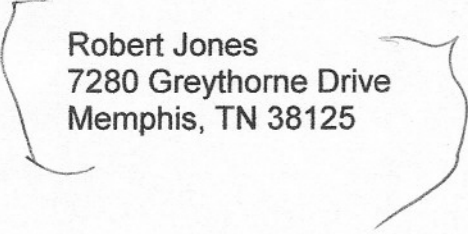
Reason: There is to much blatant abuse of the hiring practices with city government.

9).

### **Two Party Positions-working for the City and One Own Private Practice**

The city should hire the necessary and appropriate staff, i.e. attorneys, to handle matters of issue/concern within the city. Paid attorneys should be fulltime and not part time-this is definitely true when one defends city employees against city government or when other appropriate actions of state or city government may incur or be in conflict.

Thank you for allowing me to share my suggestions and recommendations to the Charter committee.



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